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### ARTZ 321.01: Painting II - Contemporary Themes

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Spring 2014

The University of Montana, Department of Art

**ART 321, section 01, Painting II: Contemporary Themes, 3 Credits**

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Prereq, ART 240/ARTZ 221

Instructor: Kevin Bell

Office: Room 410, Fine Art Building [kevin.bell@umontana.edu](mailto:kevin.bell@umontana.edu) Email is the best way to reach me.

Office Hours: Mondays 12:00-2:00pm

Meeting times: 2:10-4:00pm, Mondays and Wednesdays, FA 404

**COURSE DESCRIPTION** (catalogue): "Development of painting skills and concepts with an emphasis on contemporary ideas, process and materials. Studio practicum, lectures, critiques, reading and writing."

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** At painting's (and art's) core is the exploration of ideas. This class will engage with contemporary themes and will ask you to respond with your own "take" on a variety of ideas important to modern culture. Many assignments this term are inspired by the topics of major national art exhibitions. Your work therefore will parallel the discourse in the greater art world and wider culture.

Contemporary painting is not just one style or outlook, but is in fact open to a wide variety of possibilities, from new ways of working and combining to unexpected subject matter. During this class we will utilize experimental and nontraditional, alternative methods approaches so important to artists working today.

**FORMAT:**

**Painting Assignments.** The majority of our time will be spent painting. While much of the class will be spent on several larger assignments, we will also have several smaller exercises so that you become familiar with various new processes. While each project provides structure, I encourage you to interpret loosely and creatively, based on your personal interests and direction. Accompanying most major assignments will be a written description available on Moodle.

**Demonstrations.** At several points throughout the term I will be demonstrating various techniques, including printing with paint, encaustic, digital and various gessos.

**Reading.** Periodically I will be assigning you readings that relate to assignments and issues addressed in class. They will be on Moodle, and you are required to read them! I ask that you keep a journal recording your impressions from the reading, and I will be collecting them periodically.

**Critiques.** Critiques are valuable to artists at all stages of their career. These discussions allow students to learn from each other and their instructor, evaluate themselves, and to utilize their growing visual vocabulary. I will guide these discussions and offer my feedback, but ultimately expect the class as a whole to speak more than myself in response to each other's artwork. Please come ready to talk and offer your insights and suggestions.

**Presentations.** Looking at other artists is important to your development as a painter. Learning how others use paint and approach different subjects can add depth and richness to your work. To this end, I will ask you to read about an artist, research images and present a short discussion to the rest of the class. You will select any artist of your choice, but he/she must be living and you must provide me with a link for approval.

**Homework:** Expect to spend 5 hours a week outside of class. If you are not sure what you need to be doing over the weekend, make sure you come see me before you leave on Wednesday's class. This studio is available for your use when no other class is meeting. (No classes are scheduled in this studio on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and are a perfect time to work.)

**PARTICIPATION.** Participation is an important part of this course, and you will be expected to engage in every class. Please make sure you show up with all material each class.

#### GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

**Grades** will reflect

- Quality of work (75%)
  - Completion of assignment with a high level of commitment.
  - Understanding of new concepts
  - Willingness to take chances
- Presentation (5%)
- Participation (20%)
  - Attendance
  - Contributions to critiques
  - Classroom etiquette, and facility care

If you are present, engaged and working to understand new things, progress will come inevitably.

I will give you verbal feedback on each of your paintings during scheduled group critiques and through written comments on completed assignments. A final one-on-one critique will be scheduled at the end of term to discuss your work. Additionally, I would be happy to meet before this to discuss your progress if you wish.

**Attendance:** Success in painting is almost entirely a function of effort. It is important to arrive on time, with all materials, and be ready to work. Usually at the beginning of each class I will discuss important concepts and issues that will guide the day's assignment, and each assignment builds on previous work. **It is therefore nearly impossible to make up missed class and it is essential that you are committed to arriving on time and attending every class.** More than 3 missed classes or consistent lateness will result in a lowered grade. (For example, from B+ to B).

**If you miss a class,** please ask a fellow classmate about what you missed. It is often very hard to find a time to meet and summarize the class for you. Instead of contacting me to find out what you missed, instead have the email of at least one fellow classmate you can contact. I will post all lectures and assignments on Moodle.

#### MATERIALS.

You are welcome to work in either acrylic or oil, which ever is your personal preference. If you choose oil, you **MUST** make underpaintings in acrylic, as too much solvent on a canvas produces harmful vapors.

**Student Conduct Code**

"All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/name/StudentConductCode>."

**Disabling Condition:**

"The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability for Students (DSS). If you think you have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you are not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation"

**Withdrawal Policy**

Specifics available at this web address: <http://www2.umt.edu/catalog/acpolpro.htm>

**Health and Safety**

The UM Art Department uses environmentally sound methods. Required materials from your supply list are in compliance. Gamsol is the only allowable solvent in the painting area because of its relatively low aromatic vapors and evaporation rate (20% in three hours). Even still, do not leave any container of Gamsol open for a prolonged period. All others, including turpentine and Odorless Mineral Spirits are prohibited. You are individually responsible for clean up at the end of each session in this classroom (either in or out of class time). Use of the woodshop power tools is voluntary, and all users must complete a power tool orientation. No creatures or children will be allowed in the studios during class time or open studio times. No food or beverage containers will be allowed in the Art Department facilities when art-making is in progress. All art work must be picked up by the Monday after finals week or it will be discarded.

**Building Access**

The use of studio space requires current enrollment in a specific studio course, as course fees are used to purchase supplies. Those not currently enrolled will be asked to leave. Building hours are 7:00am to 11:00pm daily. Fridays are open studio day in the art building—no classes are scheduled.

**Art Student Collective**

The collective is a student-organized and student-led group that sponsors art-related workshops, events, and the Annual Juried Student Art Show. Members meet regularly. Look for informational posters in the Art Building.

**Events in the Department**

<http://umartdepartment.wordpress>